

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04600 071628Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 IO-11 /098 W

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R 071444Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1762

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4600

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: PRIMIN ON LEFTIST AGITATION

REF: CAIRO 4511

1. AMBASSADOR ASKED PRIMIN APRIL 6 FOR HIS VIEW ON SECURITY SITUATION. PRIMIN REPLIED GOE KNOWS WHO AGITATORS ARE AND CAN DEAL WITH SITUATION. HE THOUGHT INCEPTION NEW AUSTERITY PROGRAM MAY CAUSE SOME DISTURBANCES, BUT GOE CONFIDENT CAN HANDLE ANY PROBLEMS. NEXT SPECIFIC DANGER POINT, HE VOLUNTEERED, IS TRADE UNION ELECTIONS IN JUNE (SEE REFTEL FOR VIEW OF KNOWLEDGEABLE LABOR OFFICIAL WHO BELIEVES ELECTIONS MAY BE POSTPONED TO 1977), BUT PRESIDENT IN MAY DAY SPEECH WILL OFFER SOME AS YET UNDETERMINED ECONOMIC CRUMB OF COMFORT TO WORKERS. ANY SUCH BONUS WOULD BE SYMBOLIC OF PRIMIN'S DETERMINATION THAT ALL CLASSES EXCEPT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 04600 071628Z

WORKERS MUST JOIN IN NATIONAL SACRIFICE. HE WILL INSIST, HE SAID,

THAT CABINET MINISTERS TAKE SYMBOLIC PAY CUTS IMMEDIATELY.

2. AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT RECENT FLURRY OF NASSERIST EFFORTS GAIN PUBLIC PLATFORM FOR DISSEMINATION THEIR VIEWS. PRIMIN CONFIRMED THAT MARXISTS HAVE REFUSED ACCEPT NASSERISTS INTO NEW LEFTIST ASU GROUPING UNDER KHALID MUHI AL-DIN. SALIM HAD CALLED IN KHALID LAST WEEK TO URGE HIM TO AVOID COMPROMISING WITH NASSERISTS. KHALID, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY TURNED DOWN NASSERIST APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE HE FEARED TAKE OVER, NEEDED LITTLE PERSUASION. PRIMIN THOUGHT THAT NASSERISTS WOULD DECIDE ACT AS INDEPENDENT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, ESCHEWING ANY FORMAL AFFILIATION WITH AN ASU GROUP. PRIMIN DID NOT RULE OUT AN INFORMAL NASSERIST BLOC, AND WE ASSUME NASSERISTS MAY ENDEAVOR SET UP SOME INFORMAL CAUCUS. SALIM SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT IDEA FLOATED BY MARI MARCH 17 THAT THERE MIGHT BE FOURTH "INDEPENDENT" ORGANIZATION.

3. LEFTIST INFLUENCE ON EGYPTIAN CAMPUSES HAS ALSO WORRIED SALIM. HE SAID 24 SUCH INDIVIDUALFROM FACULTY COUNCILS OF ALEXANDRIA AND AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITIES ARE KNOWN AND CAN BE KEPT IN LINE AND HE INTENDS REMOVE 32 OF NEW MEMBERS OF FEDERATED EGYPTIAN STUDENTS COUNCILS, TO WHOM HE SPOKE IN CAIRO APRIL 6.

4. AMBASSADOR DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN PRESS CIRCLES, BUT WE ASSUME THAT SALIM IS ALSO TAKING PERSONAL INTEREST IN IMPLEMENTING SADAT'S INSTRUCTION TO DISCIPLINE THE MEDIA. ARREST OF MRS. SAMIR KARAM FOR POSSESSION COMMUNIST LEAFLETS (CAIRO 4103) MAY BE CASE IN POINT, SINCE BOTH SHE AND HER HUSBAND ARE JOURNALISTS. ARREST MAY ALSO BE INTENDED AS FIRM GOE SIGNAL THAT SADAT MEANT WHAT HE SAID ON MARCH 27 ABOUT UNACCEPTABILITY OF EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS SPREADING TREASON ABROAD. EMBOFF HAS HEARD SIMIR KARAM VIOLENTLY CRITICIZING SADAT "DEVIATIONISM" AND WE UNDERSTAND HE IS NOW PRINTING HIS VIEWS IN LEBANON.

5. PRIMIN DID NOT DISCUSS DANGER OF SUBVERSION FROM THE MUSLIM RIGHT. PRESUMABLY THIS IS BECAUSE GOE HAS FOR SOME MONTHS UNDERTAKEN ACTIVE PROGRAM TO MOBILIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 04600 071628Z

MUSLIM FEELING AGAINST LEFTISTS SEEKING TO SUBVERT WORKERS AND STUDENTS. IN SEPTEL, WE REPORT OUR VIEW THAT THIS SCENARIO IS WORKING TO SOME EXTENT, BUT THAT IT CONTAINS THE SEEDS OF A REACTIONARY ISLAMIC RESURGENCE WHICH MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THAN THE LEFTIST MOVEMENTS IT HAS BEEN GALVANIZED TO DISCREDIT.
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